GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3324
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2007
ENCROACHMENT UPON THE LAND OF SATYAGRAHA ASHRAM
Singh Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gandhiji had set up Satyagraha Ashram in Mitherwa Village in Bihar during the Champaran Satyagraha;

(b) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme for the development of the first Satyagraha Ashram on the occasion of first Centenary year of the Satyagraha;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is aware that certain mafia elements have encroached upon the land of the said ashram;

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the protection of the said property;

(f) whether the Government proposes to declare it a place of national heritage to bring it on the tourism map of India; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (g) There is an Ashram at Bhitiharwa in West Champaran, Bihar, which is managed and run by the Government of Bihar. As such it does not fall under the administrative purview of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. However, the Central Government sanctioned a grant of Rs.10 lakhs on the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi for development of the Ashram. Champaran is also proposed to be developed as one of the Gandhi Heritage Sites. A Sub-Group under the Chairmanship of Shri Gopalkrishan Gandhi, Governor of West Bengal has been constituted to make detailed recommendations in this regard.